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PAPER SITUATION

Report of the Wood Pulp Investigating Committee

IN RELATION TO THE TARIFF

Recommends That no Legislation Affecting Wood Pulp and Print Paper be Enacted Until Committee Has Finished Its Investigation.

WASHINGTON, May 28.—The special committee of members of the House appointed on complaint of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association to investigate the wood pulp and print paper situation in relation to the tariff and with regard to an alleged conspiracy in restraint of trade today submitted a majority and a minority report.

The majority report, which is signed by Representatives Mann of Illinois, Miller of Kansas, Stafford of Wisconsin, and Bannon of Ohio, is a preliminary report and recommends that no legislation affecting wood pulp and print paper be enacted until the committee has finished its investigation and reported.

The minority report, which is signed by Representatives Sims of Tennessee and Ryan of New York recommends passage of the Stevens bill to place wood pulp and print paper upon the free list.

The majority report is summed up in the following words.

As the present price of paper would not to any considerable degree be immediately affected by the repeal of the tariff and as the passage of the Stevens in its present form might spell ruin to the paper industry and ruinously high prices for paper in the near future, your committee believes it the part of wisdom before making recommendations for positive legislation to await until its investigation has been completed and thoroughly digested.

Witnesses appearing in behalf of the contentions of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association have been given full attention, and all by John Norris, who appeared as the special representative of that organization were duly weighed.

Not all publishers who offered to appear did appear and there are many whom the committee would have liked to examine.

In the tabulation schedules of newspapers but few metropolitan dailies seemed to be the heaviest consumers.

"From these returns the average price at present, including in many cases freight charges to 919 newspapers, is \$2.86 per 100; that of these 161 using paper in rolls have an average price of \$2.54 and 558 have an average of \$3.07 for paper in sheets.

It seems probable that publishers paying high prices most readily responded to the inquiries of the committee."

"While there appears to have been complaint on the part of paper manufacturers that the selling price of paper for 1906 was too low to be fairly remunerative, yet we are inclined to think it was not until the summer of 1907 that there was a general increase in print paper prices. That a general increase was in fact put into contracts, appears to be unquestioned."

As to the charge of the existence of a combination in restraint of trade, the report says:

"The evidence before the commission, so far fails to prove any conspirators to advance prices or otherwise in restraint of trade, but considerable evidence was presented which excites suspicion that such combination had been made and is in existence."

Regarding the removal of the tariff, the report says:

"As to the removal of the tariff on

ROSS GETS FIVE YEARS

(Continued from page 1)

establish the element of "knowledge," which he has produced and has been the most serious obstacle that the state has had to overcome in the Ross trial, and which he said also exploded the theory that the corporation and not officers as individuals, were responsible for the act of conversion of the funds deposited in a bank.

Counsel McCamant, for defendant Ross, had nothing to say concerning the case except that he was confident that he would be able to win out before the Supreme Court.

After the arguments of the motions for a new trial and arrest of judgment had been finished, which were taken up when the court convened at 9 o'clock this morning, and after the court had passed upon them negatively, the court asked if the defendant had any reason why sentence would not be passed, Counsel McCamant requested that, inasmuch as the court had seen fit upon its own motion to delay passing judgment for one month after the trial, it was within the power and jurisdiction of the court to defer judgment pending decision of the appeal to the Supreme Court, but the court did not interpret the law in that light, and while not feeling indisposed to grant a certificate of probable cause, as requested, announced that he was prepared to pass sentence immediately.

This was followed by about 15 seconds of absolute silence, during which a pin could have been heard to drop upon the floor of the court room, while Ross sat apparently indifferent, and there was not a perceptible change of color in his countenance as he listened to the words of the court in pronouncing a sentence practically impossible of fulfillment.

District Attorney Manning expressed sorrow for Ross in his private capacity and stated that while he had no desire whatever to see him punished, he was gratified at the thought of having been successful in "establishing the precedent of public denunciation of such practices in banking methods, which will have a tendency to induce bank officials to exercise better care in the future handling of public and private funds entrusted to them."

print paper and wood pulp, it is intimately connected with the conservation of the forest resources in the United States as well as its effect upon the paper manufacturing industry and newspaper publishing. The committee is not yet prepared to make recommendation as to the permanent policy of the United States in regard to the duty on paper and wood pulp, except that the committee is firmly of the opinion that the tariff on news-print paper and on wood pulp should not be removed as to paper or pulp coming from any country or place which prohibits the exportation of pulp wood or which levies any export duty on wood pulp or paper or makes any higher charge in any way upon wood pulp or wood intended for exportation to the United States for that purpose.

"That the evidence taken so far would seem to indicate that the temporary suspension or entire removal of the present tariff would not have any great immediate effect and if the tariff is removed at any time it should be coupled with the right of free exportation of wood pulp from the Canadian forests. The removal of the tariff on print-paper and wood pulp, if followed by an export duty on pulp wood coming from Canada, would probably result in a considerable increase in the price of print-paper and an early drain of the wood-pulp forests of the United States.

"It would seem that the publishers to be assured of the low price for paper should maintain mills in the United States. Any policy that would give the Canadian mills a preferential advantage over American mills on obtaining the raw material at a low price must inevitably result in the dismantling of American mills

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and the ultimate dependence of American publishers upon Canadian mills.

"Under these conditions Canada could levy export duties on print-paper that would result in enhanced prices without the presence of competition from American paper manufacturers.

"Your committee proposes during the summer vacation to continue its investigations and expects to be able to present to the House at the next session definite recommendations, based upon complete investigation thoroughly considered.

"The decreased consumption of paper consequently upon general business conditions in the country means a lessened demand for pulp wood and we believe a consequent return to normal prices."

Cures Biliousness, Sick Headache, Sour Stomach, Torpid Liver and Chronic Constipation. Pleasant to take

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FIRE AT PORTLAND.

Large Packing House Destroyed by Fire—Loss About \$25,000.

PORTLAND, May 28.—A large packing plant at East Second and East Stark streets owned by the National Packing Company was destroyed by fire shortly before midnight tonight. Loss about \$25,000.

CASCADE GRASS UP WELL.

THE DALLES, Or., May 28.—While in the city yesterday consulting attorneys to the possibilities of the Wamic Farmers' Telephone Co. for procuring timber for poles from the National forest reserve in the southwestern portion of Wasco county, Joe Prout, a forest ranger, gave out the information that the range on his beat on the eastern slope

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY.

WANTED—A YOUNG MAN TO drive delivery wagon. Enquire at Hoefler's.

of the Cascades is in the best it has been for years. Mr. Prout said this is due to the exceptionally mild winter and the fact that stock was taken from the summer pasturage early in the fall.